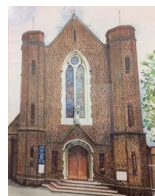




St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi
Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward



PARISH NEWSLETTER

15TH / 16TH AUGUST 2026

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Pg 178

(Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab, 1 Corinthians 15:20-27, Luke 1:39-56)

22ND / 23RD AUGUST 2026

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Pg 120

(Isaiah 22:15,19-23, Romans 11:33-36, Matthew 16:13-20)

In the middle of August the church celebrates one of the great feasts honouring the mother of our redeemer and thus honouring the God who accomplishes such marvels in and through her: the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady. It parallels the Marian feast we celebrate in early December, the Immaculate Conception. It is fitting that the mother of the sinless one should herself be free of the sin which estranged the human race from God, and fitting that the one who was free from sin by a special grace should also be spared the corruption of the grave. The first to share in the freedom won by her son is also the first to be raised to the heights of heaven. She is a model and sign of hope for us: for we too are set free in baptism to journey to the promised land of heaven. She who was united to her Son's death in a unique way - the sword that pierced her own soul - also receives the fruits of his victory. We likewise are joined to his death in baptism, so that we may be raised up with him.

This newsletter covers two weeks, and on the second Sunday of this period we return to green for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time. In that week's gospel we hear Peter's great profession of faith at the pagan shrine of Caesarea Philippi. Prompted by the Holy Spirit he declares 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God'. Jesus responds by giving him a new name and asserting that this first proclamation of the truth of his identity is the rock on which his Church will be founded. The honour we give to Mary on her Assumption is inextricably linked to the faith that forms us as Christians. Mary is the Mother of God, not because the eternal Trinity has a mother, but because the second person of the Trinity, the eternal Son and Word, required a mother to become one of us. He became one of us in order to redeem us by sharing our life in every respect, suffering and dying, so that we might be restored to life and communion with the Father in the Spirit. Jesus Christ is true God and true Man. Mary is his mother, so she is rightly called Mother of God. And she is our mother too, for we are members of Christ's body, and the mother of the head is also mother of the body. He is our brother as well as Lord and he entrusts us to her maternal care from the cross. In that moment he also asks us to honour and love her as mother, for we cannot love the Son without loving the Mother, and we cannot profess Jesus Christ

as Son of the Living God, without honouring his mother as the true Mother of God.
May she always bring us closer to him.

God bless, Fr Matthew

PARISH CENTRE PLANS: Members of the parish and members of the local community are invited to drop in to view the latest plans for the new Parish Centre on Monday 14th September from 6-8pm in the existing Social Centre. The plans will also be on display during Sunday coffee the weekends either side of this.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: There is no time of Eucharistic Adoration/confessions taking place on Saturday 15th or Wednesday 19th.

ADVANCE NOTICE: Please note there is no public Mass on Monday 31st August (Bank Holiday), and Mass on Tuesday 1st September will be at 7.30pm.

RIP MARY PATRICIA WALSH: Please note that Mary's funeral will be held here on Thursday 20th August at 10.30am followed by a private burial at St Patrick's Cemetery. May Mary rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

MASS FOR ALTAR SERVERS – GUILD OF ST STEPHEN (BRENTWOOD DIOCESE): The Guild of St Stephen – Brentwood Diocese warmly invites all altar servers and their families to the Mass for Altar Servers on Saturday 19 September 2026 at 11.30am, taking place at St Joseph the Worker, Hutton (CM13 1BJ). Servers are asked to arrive by 11.15am and to bring their own alb/cassock and cotta. Parking is available onsite, and the nearest train station is Shenfield (Elizabeth Line & National Rail). Following Mass, refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall, after which the Guild of St Stephen Brentwood Diocese AGM will take place. This special Mass will be offered for all altar servers across the Diocese and in thanksgiving for John McCormack, marking 36 years of dedicated service as Chairman of the Guild. If you would like to attend the Altar Servers' Mass, please email guildofststephenbrentwood@gmail.com by 13 September 2026, as this will assist us in planning for numbers.

BCCS FUNDRAISER: Frs. Eugene and Martin O'Hagan - formerly of the singing trio 'The Priests' will be performing at two special events: a Gala Diner and Charity Luncheon on 9th & 10th October respectively at The Lawn, Rochford - for full details and to purchase tickets, please visit www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/ There is a possibility of transport being organised from the parish for one of these - speak to Fr Matthew or Simon Darvill.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT: From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. To find out more: www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443.

MISSIO: If you have not yet returned your Missio box, please do so before the end of August to the presbytery.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, UPMINSTER – HEADTEACHER

Required from 1st January 2027. Further information and an application pack are available from the school website: <https://stjosephs-upminster.net>. Closing date: 5pm on Wednesday, 2nd September. Interviews (provisionally) on Wednesday, 16th September.

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Eric Grace, Monica Goold, Robert Watson, Christine Kelliher, Amy Atkins, Monica Pugh, Daniel Casey, Guiseppe Biagioni, Madge Everett, Beryl Mattis, Raymond Martin O'Connor, Carmel Armstrong, Joe Dowling, Patricia Lane, Annie Hawes, Thomas Stenson, Jean Stubbs, Thomas Brennan, Anthony Gregory, Sr Raphael, Cyril Cooke, Anne McGreevy, Timothy Clarke, James Davis, Elsie Milburn, Beryl Gallagher, John Parish, Aileen McGovern, Robert Keating, Daisy Mowatt, Rose Gooch, Anne Wells, Irene Waters, John O'Sullivan, June Main, Ivy Partridge, Mary Lynch, Anne Richards, Mary Tylar, Colin Brooks, Sr Columba, Georgette Horlock, Sr Dorothy Clinton, Freda Hallum, James Griffin, Michael (Jack) Murphy, Eileen Finigan, Patrick Walsh, Thomas Bailey, Henry McKeown, Patrick Kelly, Ethel Cave, Elizabeth Leech, Ronald Hope, Michael Rogers, Catherine Gricks, Olga Marchetti, Keith Wright, Elsie Rogers, Keith Dagnall, George Farrell, Eileen Shave, Stephan Grubb, Lilian O'Donnell, Henry Rochford, Maxwell Lightbody, Sylvia Ford, Tony Faughnan, Jane Megoran, Mary McCarthy, Roland Stables, Hugh Farrell, Billy Murphy, Thomas Halligan, Phyllis Burke, Michael Kinchin, Edward White, Douglas Black, Marjorie Copland, Daniel Barclay, Bernard Gallagher, Teresa Payne, Jack Crowley, David Clohesy, Molly Ramsay, Rose Taylor, Winifred Pavitt, William McCarthy, Jessie Callaghan, Nicholas Anfilgoff, Thomas Pearson, Margaret Garvan, Rose Ann Murphy, Dennis Richards, Mary Precieux, Cornelius Scully, John Haran, Patricia Kingsman, Margaret Caldon. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

USEFUL INFORMATION

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & CONFESSIONS: Saturday evening 5.30-6.15pm and Wednesday 12 noon-1pm. Confessions also available on request when Fr Matthew is available or by appointment.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri 9am-12.30pm (except Wednesdays).

Fr Matthew (emergencies/pastoral need): 07356 292542

St Joseph's School - School office 01708-220277

Sacred Heart of Mary School - School office 01708-222660

Baptisms & weddings - please speak to Fr Matthew after Mass

Repository: Saturdays before & after Mass, and Sundays after the 9am Mass until 10.55am

Queen's Hospital: If someone staying in the hospital would like Holy Communion, please contact the lay chaplaincy coordinator Helen Miranda on 01708 477890. In an emergency ask the ward staff to request the on-call Catholic priest via switchboard.

St Joseph's Pre-School - (available 7.30am-6pm) 07983-859090 / 07807-700900

Facebook: *stjosephschurchupminster* **Web:** *www.stjosephschurchupminster.com*

**PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE AWARE OF THE POSITION OF THE
EMERGENCY FIRE EXIT DOORS IN THE CHURCH, AND PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL
MOBILE TELEPHONES ARE SILENCED BEFORE THE SERVICE BEGINS**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS FORTNIGHT

Sat 15th August

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

People of the parish

Sun 16th August

9.00am

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Rachel O'Donnell RIP (Pavitt)

11.00am

Catherine Joyce RIP (O'Donnell Family)

Mon 17th August

9.15am

Rachel O'Donnell RIP (Watson Family)

Tues 18th August

9.15am

Rachel O'Donnell RIP (Matton)

Wed 19th August

9.15am

Patrick & Mary-Anne Brady RIP anniv. (Green)

12 noon—1pm

NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 20th August

9.15am

ST BERNARD, Ab, D

Liz & Steve Pinder's Intentions (Duffey)

10.30am

Funeral—Mary Patricia Walsh

Frid 21st August

9.15am

ST PIUS X, P

Eileen O'Shea RIP (Eleanor)

Sat 22nd August

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

OUR LADY, MOTHER AND QUEEN

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Josie Byrne RIP (Manning)

Sun 23rd August

9.00am

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

People of the parish

11.00am

Simbert John Lewis RIP Anniv. (Family)

Mon 24th August

9.15am

ST BARTHOLEMEW, Ap

Eileen O'Shea RIP (Clare, Annabel & Charlotte)

Tues 25th August

9.15am

Angela Podmore RIP (Pavitt)

Wed 26th August

9.15am

Oisin Dailey (Sullivan)

12 noon—1pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 27th August

9.15am

ST MONICA

Jane & James Megoran RIP Anniv. (Anne)

Frid 28th August

9.15am

ST AUGUSTINE, Bp, D

Dwayne Key's Intentions (Mum)

Sat 29th August

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

THE PASSION OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Patrick & Jennie Kennelly RIP (Lynch)

Sun 30th August

9.00am

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

People of the parish

11.00am

Canon Alan McLean RIP (Holden)